

MORE PRECIOUS THAN GOLD

John Edwards

During the Coronavirus Pandemic, efforts have been made to preserve “precious resources” at the hospitals. “Tests, hospital beds and hospital staff”, an infectious disease specialist said, “Those are the things that are more precious to us than gold right now.” That brings to mind, **“More Precious Than Gold”**. The Bible speaks of precious things. Let me bring some things to our attention.

THE WORD OF THE LORD.

1 Samuel 3:1 says, “...*And the word of the Lord was precious in those days...*” The Psalmist stated, “*He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him*” (Ps. 126:6). The word of the Lord is precious seed (Lk. 8:11). In talking about the law of the Lord, the testimony of the Lord, the statutes of the Lord, the commandment of the Lord, the fear of the Lord (all expressions for the word of the Lord), the Psalmist declared, “*More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold...*” (Ps. 19:7-10). Thus, we buy it (Prov. 23:23), read it (Eph. 3:4), study as to rightly divide it (2 Tim. 2:15), meditate upon it (Ps. 119:97), love it (2 Th. 2:10), believe it (1 Th. 2:13), obey it (1

Pet. 1:22), and teach it to others (2 Tim. 2:2).

UNITY AMONG BRETHREN.

Psalm 133 records, “*Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron’s beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments; As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the Lord commanded the blessing, even life for evermore.*” Among the things the Lord hates is “...*he that soweth discord among brethren*” (Prov. 6:19). Jesus prayed for His disciples, “*That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee...*” (Jn. 17:21). One of the great pleas of the apostle Paul was the plea for unity: “...*that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you...*” (1 Cor. 1:10). “*Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace*” (Eph. 4:3).

CHRIST. Isaiah prophesied, “*Therefore thus saith the Lord God, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone...*” (Is. 28:16). This precious corner stone is identified as Christ. Speaking of Jesus Christ, Peter quoted Isaiah 28:16 and said, “*Unto you therefore which believe he is precious...*” (1 Pet.

2:4-7). Christ is not precious to everyone: precious to them which believe. Is He precious to you?

THE BLOOD OF CHRIST.

Peter penned, “*Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot*” (1 Pet. 1:18-19). This precious blood has redeeming, sin-forgiving power (Eph. 1:7). It purchased the church (Acts 20:28). It was shed for the remission of sins (Mt. 26:28). By this precious blood we are justified (Rom. 5:9), made nigh (Eph. 2:13), peace is made (Col. 1:20), the conscience is purged (Heb. 9:14), we are sanctified (Heb. 13:12), cleansed and washed from sin (1 Jn. 1:7; Rev. 1:5). This blood was shed in the Lord’s death (Jn. 19:33-34). In baptism, we reach the benefits of His death (Rom. 6:3-4).

FAITH. 2 Peter 1:1, “...*to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ.*” Did you know that your faith which comes by God’s word (Rom. 10:17) is precious? It is precious for many reasons. By faith hearts are purified (Acts 15:9). We are sanctified by faith (Acts 26:18). We live by faith (Rom. 1:17). We are justified by faith (Rom. 5:1).

We are children of God by faith (Gal. 3:26). We are saved through faith (Eph. 2:8). Christ dwells in our hearts by faith (Eph. 3:17). We are able to quench the fiery darts of the wicked by taking the shield of faith (Eph. 6:16). Through faith we inherit the promises (Heb. 6:12). It is impossible please God without faith (Heb. 11:6). Since faith is so precious, we must abound in faith (2 Cor. 8:7), hold faith and not allow it to be put away or made shipwreck (1 Tim. 1:19), continue in faith (1 Tim. 2:15), not cast off our faith (1 Tim. 5:12), not let our faith be overthrown (2 Tim. 2:18), follow faith (2 Tim. 2:22) and hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering (Heb. 10:23). Our faith must work (Gal. 5:6; Jas. 2:17), be coupled with obedience, to be of any value!

THE TRIAL OF YOUR FAITH. It is written, *“That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ”* (1 Pet. 1:7). Likewise James talked about *“the trying of your faith”* in James 1:3. Peter wrote to scattered strangers (1:1). These were *“in heaviness through*

manifold temptations” (1 Pet. 1:6). He spoke of their *“fiery trial”* and *“sufferings”* (1 Pet. 4:12-13). Peter’s language of a refiner’s fire, the burning by which metals are roasted or reduced, shows how particularly difficult times were for Christians. How could the trial of faith be much more precious than gold? Gold perishes; faith endures! They had a living hope (1:3), an incorruptible inheritance in heaven (1:4) and were kept through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time (1:5). Thus, they could *“rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory”* (1:8-9).

GOD’S PROMISES. *“Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises...”* (2 Pet. 1:4). God cannot lie (Titus 1:2). It is impossible for Him to lie (Heb. 6:18). God keeps His promises (Acts 13:23). The promises God made to Abraham were great (Gen. 12:1-7). The promise of life in Christ (2 Tim. 1:1; 1 Jn. 2:25) and the promise of eternal inheritance (Heb. 9:15) are exceeding great and precious! According to His promise, we look for new heavens and a new earth (2 Pet. 3:13). As Paul said, *“Having therefore these*

promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God” (2 Cor. 7:1).

THE DEATH OF SAINTS. Psalm 116:15, *“Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.”* It is difficult to think of death as precious. Not all death is. Only precious is the death of saints. A saint is one set apart to God’s service. Saints, in this age, are those in Christ Jesus (1 Cor. 1:2; Phil. 1:1). How does one get into Christ? Galatians 3:27 answers, *“...baptized into...”*. Then, one must stay in the Lord (Jn. 15:4) so as to die in Him. John wrote, *“Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors; and their works do follow them”* (Rev. 14:13).

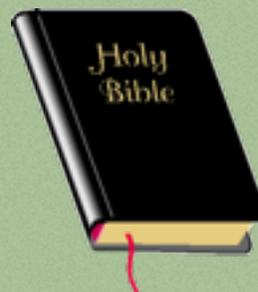
As folks work to preserve precious resources at hospitals, let us not overlook the precious resources we have spiritually. Let us preserve and protect these things that are more precious than gold, so that we can be granted entrance into that city of pure gold that is garnished with all manner of precious stones (Rev. 21:18-19).

The Terre Haute **SPEAKER** is published weekly by the church of Christ at Terre Haute, Indiana.

Assembling At:
4017 E Margaret DR
Terre Haute, IN 47803
[Exit 11 (I-70) W on HWY 46,
W on Margaret DR approx. 1 mile]

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